

## REMARKS

Claims 11-15 are pending in the present amendments.

Claims 1-10 are canceled

The claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth herein. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norton '532 in view of Cook '454, Dorsch '286 or Walker '964.

Norton is cited as disclosing the cultivator. As pointed out by the Office Norton fails to recite the plow elements comprising two portions which meet at a cutting edge. Cook, Dorsch or Walker are cited as disclosing those teachings otherwise lacking in Norton.

Cook recites a cutting element which is rigid in the direction of use. The present invention allows the cutting element to flex backward and then spring forward for improved soil disruption. Furthermore, the cutting edge of Cook is substantially verticle which would tend to slide through the soil instead of roll it over the plow as would occur with the

cutting elements as set forth in independent claims 11 and 15 of the present application. One of skill in the art would have no basis for utilizing the cutting element of Cook with the J-tines of Norton since the rigidity necessary for plowing close to the plant is lost by the combination. Even if one did combine the two the claimed angle would still not be achieved nor would one of skill in the art have any motivation for altering the cutting angle except for that provided by the present application.

Dorsch is specific to a sub-surface plow specifically intended to plow below the surface of the land with minimal disturbance of the surface soil (col. 1 lines 15-18). Norton, and the present application, are specifically intended to maximize the amount of surface soil disrupted during each pass thereby decreasing the number of passes required for adequate cultivation. One of skill in the art would not incorporate a sub-surface plow intended to minimize surface disruption with a surface plow intended to maximize surface disruption even in hindsight based on the present application. The combination of Dorsch and Norton is improper and a rejection based thereon is improper.

Walker relies on a rigid connection between the plow frame and cutting element. This is contrary to the teachings of the

present application wherein a J-tine is utilized to maximize soil disruption. Therefore, one of skill in the art would be led away from utilizing plow elements suitable for a rigid attachment when a flexible attachment is desired.

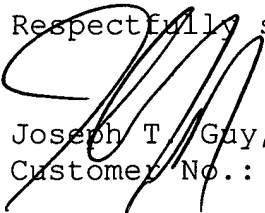
Claims 11-15 are believed to be patentable over the art of record for, at least, the reasons set forth herein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited.

If a discussion with the Agent of record would be beneficial the Examiner is invited to contact the Agent for further discussions or to clarify any points hindering allowance.

### CONCLUSIONS

Claims 11-15 are pending in the present application. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joseph T. Guy, Ph.D.  
Customer No.: 46591

June 29, 2005